

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering a parcel by a carrier to a secure receptacle at a location of an intended recipient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) ~~providing the parcel to the carrier and dispatching the carrier with the parcel to the location of the intended recipient in accordance with delivery instructions associated with the parcel, the location corresponding to the address of the intended recipient on the delivery instructions provided by a sender;~~
- (b) the carrier accessing the secure receptacle at the location;
- (c) the carrier placing the parcel within the accessed secure receptacle;
- (d) the carrier securing the secure receptacle after placing the parcel within the secure receptacle;
- (e) permitting the carrier to make further deliveries at additional locations after having placed the parcel within the secure receptacle; and
- (f) using a scanner, automatically registering the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle after the securing step by communicating placement data concerning the placement of the parcel within the secure receptacle over a communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional steps of:

reading a code on the parcel in response to the securing step; and

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storing the code in a memory.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, the registering step including the additional steps of:

accessing a remote location by the a-communication link; and

conveying the placement data to the remote location;

- wherein the registering step is in response to ~~and contemporaneously with~~ the securing step.

4. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the accessing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the locked state to the unlocked state in response to an authorized identifier.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein the authorized identifier is received from at least one of: a magnetic strip card, a key pad, and a smart card.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein the secure receptacle has a locked state and an unlocked state, and wherein the securing step includes the additional step of:

moving from the unlocked state to the locked state after receiving the parcel.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the accessing step.

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8. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the securing step.
9. (Original) The method as in claim 1, including the additional step of generating a log entry in response to the registering step.
10. (Original) The method as in claim 1, where in the placing step is performed at night.

Claims 11-39 (Canceled)

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